

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
PINE BLUFF DIVISION**

**RODNEY WILLIAMS  
ADC #79899**

**PETITIONER**

**v.** **CASE NO.: 5:13CV00316 DPM/BD**

**RAY HOBBS,  
Director, Arkansas Department of Correction**

**RESPONDENT**

**RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION**

**I. Procedure for Filing Objections**

The following Recommended Disposition (“Recommendation”) has been sent to United States District Judge D.P. Marshall Jr. Any party may file written objections to this Recommendation.

Objections must be specific and must include the factual or legal basis for the objection. An objection to a factual finding must identify the finding of fact believed to be wrong and describe the evidence that supports that belief.

An original and one copy of objections must be received in the office of the United States District Court Clerk within fourteen (14) days of this Recommendation. A copy will be furnished to the opposing party.

If no objections are filed, Judge Marshall can adopt this Recommendation without independently reviewing all of the evidence in the record. By not objecting, you may also waive any right to appeal questions of fact.

Mail your objections and “Statement of Necessity” to:

Clerk, United States District Court  
Eastern District of Arkansas  
600 West Capitol Avenue, Suite A149  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3325

**II. Discussion**

Petitioner Rodney Williams, an inmate in the Arkansas Department of Correction, has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus (docket entry #2), challenging his state conviction in 1983 for first-degree murder. This is Mr. Williams’s fourth request for habeas relief from the same 1983 murder conviction. See 5:86CV00200-ETR, 5:90CV00658-HW, and 5:94CV00476-BRW. The Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has denied at least two of Mr. Williams’s requests for authorization to file successive habeas petitions. *Williams v. Norris*, 5:94CV00476, docket entry #17 and #18.

Before filing a successive habeas corpus petition in a district court, a petitioner must seek and receive an order from the court of appeals authorizing the district court to consider the petition. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A). Without an order from the court of appeals authorizing the filing of a second or successive petition, the district court lacks jurisdiction to hear the petition. *Burton v. Stewart*, 549 U.S. 147, 152-53, 157 (2007).<sup>1</sup> Summary dismissal of a habeas corpus petition – prior to any answer or other pleading being filed by the State – is appropriate where the petition itself and court records show

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<sup>1</sup> The court of appeals can authorize the filing of a successive petition only if the new petition satisfies certain statutory requirements. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2).

that the petition is a second or successive petition filed without authorization from the court of appeals. Rule 4, Rules Governing Habeas Corpus Cases; *Blackmon v. Armontrout*, 61 Fed.Appx. 985, 985 (8th Cir. 2003).

The pending petition is deemed “successive” because the court has already decided a petition challenging Mr. Williams’s 1983 murder conviction. There is nothing in the record to indicate that Mr. Williams sought and received authorization from the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit before filing this successive petition. He must apply for, and receive, permission from the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit before filing any habeas corpus petition that challenges the 1983 conviction, even if he seeks to raise claims that he has never before raised – new claims that the court has never considered. Without permission from the Court of Appeals, the district court cannot consider this case. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(1)-(3)(A).

### **III. Conclusion**

The Court recommends that Judge Marshall dismiss Rodney Williams’s successive petition for writ of habeas corpus, without prejudice, for lack of jurisdiction. The Court further recommends that Judge Marshall deny a certificate of appealability. All pending motions should be dismissed as moot.

DATED this 4th day of October, 2013.



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Peter D. Deese  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE